

Annual Report 2022-23

McLaren Housing Society is privileged to work on the unceded ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́ilwətaʔɫ (Tsleil-Waututh) people and honoured that our work extends to surrounding lands of diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Vision

A healthy, responsive and inclusive community for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Mission

To provide housing and support services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS and to increase their opportunities for improved health, wellness, independent living and a sense of community.

Values

We hold these values in common and express them in our daily work.

Excellence

We strive for excellence in all we do for our people, programs and community.

Commitment

We are passionate about our work and care deeply about the people we serve.

Support and Respect

We build strong, supportive and respectful relationships among all members of our community.

Diversity and Creativity

We value the differences among us and use our differences to generate creative, collaborative solutions.

Strategic Goals:

1. Increase housing stability and overall wellness for program participants and others living with HIV/AIDS
2. Build the organizational capacity of MHS financial, human resource, programs and property
3. Enhance the profile of MHS and advocate for people living with HIV/AIDS



Index

A Message from McLaren Housing Society’s Leadership 4 - 5

Board of Directors 6

Financial Snapshot..... 7

Our Impact..... 8

Demographics 9

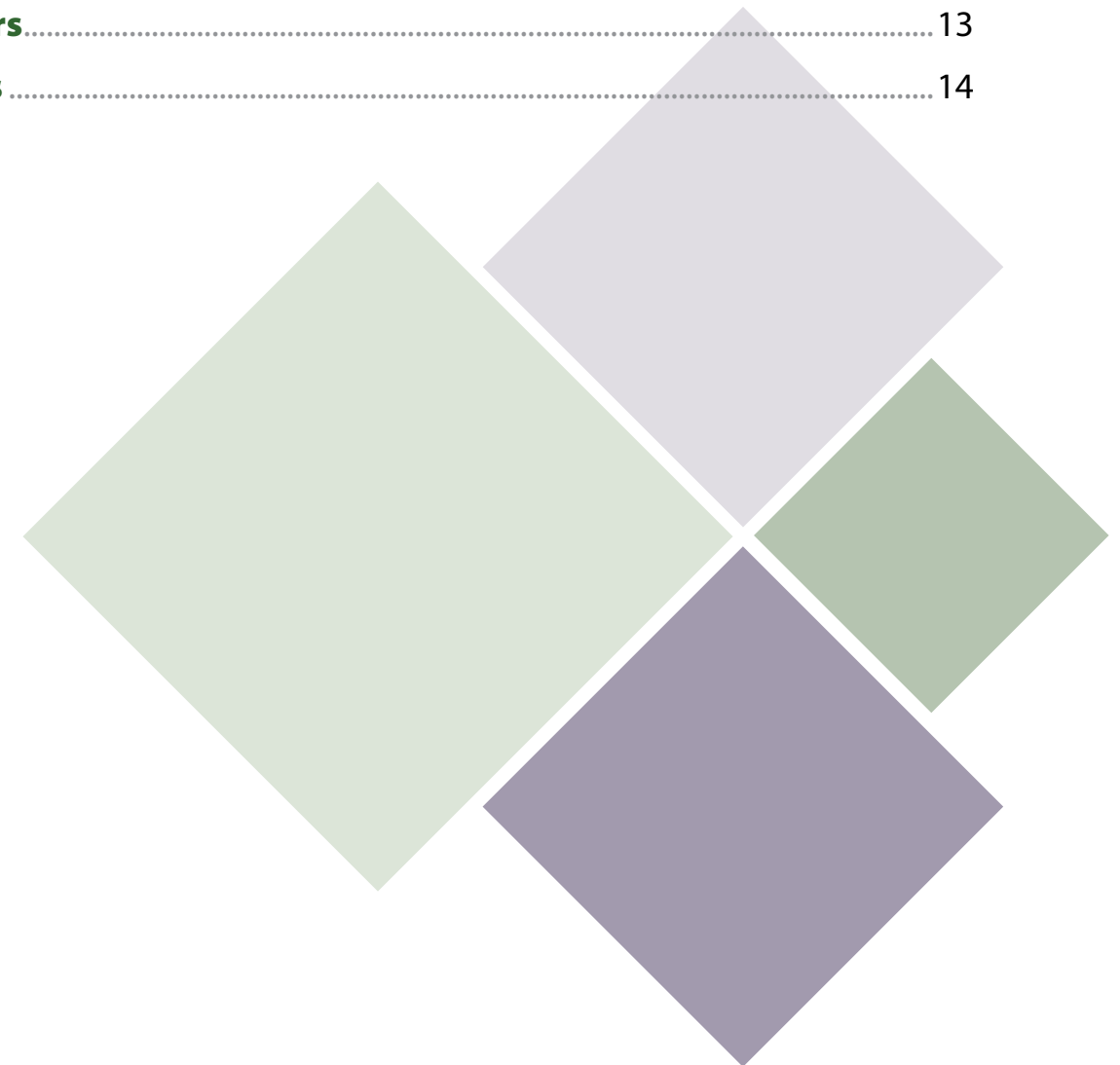
Staff Spotlight 10 - 11

Resident Spotlight..... 11

Snapshot of Events 12

Our Sponsors..... 13

Our Funders 14



A message from MHS Leadership



Mike Hoche,
Board President
McLaren Housing Society

Warm greetings from the leadership team of McLaren Housing Society! As we embark on another transformative year, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our generous donors, tireless volunteers, and dedicated staff for their unwavering

support in our mission, to provide a nurturing and empowering environment for individuals living with HIV. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of our community members.

We are pleased to present our first-ever annual report highlighting the successes and challenges McLaren Housing Society faces. Reflecting on the past year's accomplishments, we have witnessed incredible growth and resilience within our organization. We have steadfastly dedicated to improving the quality of life for those affected by HIV.

Successes:

Housing: Recognizing the critical role of stable housing in the lives of those living with HIV, our goal is to offer safe and comfortable accommodation options, fostering a sense of belonging and security for our residents as they navigate their journey toward a fulfilling life. With the support of community partners and dedicated fundraising efforts, we were able to provide safe and supportive environments for over 300 individuals living with HIV or dependent of someone living with HIV.

Comprehensive Care and Support Services: We successfully strengthened our

care and support services to meet the evolving needs of our residents. By recruiting qualified staff members and forming strategic partnerships, we improved the quality and accessibility of support services. Our approach has positively impacted our residents' well-being and overall satisfaction, enabling them to lead healthier lives.

Advocacy and Policy Development: Our commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals living with HIV remains unwavering. We actively engaged with policymakers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to influence positive change, reduce stigma, and promote policies prioritizing comprehensive healthcare and social support for our community.

Community Engagement and Empowerment: We firmly believe in the power of a strong and connected community. We fostered a sense of belonging and empowerment throughout the year by organizing events, support groups, and social activities that encourage interaction, shared experiences, and personal growth.

Leadership: We were excited to announce the appointment of a new Executive Director in November 2022. This pivotal leadership role marks a significant milestone in our journey to create a positive and lasting impact in the communities we serve. The arrival of our new Executive Director brings a fresh perspective, strategic vision, and a wealth of experience that will undoubtedly



Ilm Kassam,
Executive Director
McLaren Housing Society

drive our organization to new heights. Hiring a new Executive Director holds immense potential for McLaren Housing Society. With their proven track record of effective leadership and dedication to our mission, we anticipate transformative outcomes across various aspects of our operations

Challenges:

Funding Constraints: Despite our fundraising achievements, we continue to need help in securing sustainable funding sources. The uncertain economic climate and changing funding priorities have created additional obstacles in maintaining and expanding our services. We must explore new avenues for financial support, diversify our funding streams, and engage in strategic partnerships to ensure the long-term viability of our organization.

Increasing Demand: The demand for our services has continued to grow, reflecting the ongoing need for comprehensive support for individuals living with HIV. We need to expand our housing capacity and support as the number of individuals seeking assistance exceeds our available resources. We are actively exploring strategies to address this challenge, such as collaborating with other organizations, advocating for increased government funding, and implementing cost-effective service delivery models.

Stigma and Discrimination: Despite significant progress, stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV remain pervasive. Challenging these societal attitudes and prejudices remains an ongoing struggle. We continue to work towards combating stigma through targeted advocacy efforts, community education, and awareness campaigns. However, the deeply ingrained nature of stigma requires sustained collective action from all stakeholders.

Ageing with HIV: As individuals living with HIV continue to age, they face unique challenges related to housing stability and support. While significant progress has been made in HIV treatment and care, ensuring appropriate housing options for this population remains a complex and evolving issue. As individuals with HIV live longer, there is a growing need for long-term care options and aging-in-place services.

Moving forward over 2023-2024, our primary focus will be expanding and enhancing the services we offer to meet our residents' evolving needs better. We will explore innovative fundraising methods, strengthen relationships with existing donors, and actively pursue new funding opportunities. We will seek strategic collaborations with like-minded organizations, government agencies, and community partners to leverage resources, share best practices, and maximize our collective impact. We will intensify our efforts to challenge stigma and discrimination through advocacy campaigns, policy engagement, and community education. By promoting a more inclusive and supportive society, we can create an environment conducive to the well-being of individuals living with HIV.

In conclusion, the successes we have achieved and the challenges we face remind us of the critical importance of our work. With your continued support and guidance, we are confident in our ability to navigate the path ahead and make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your dedication and tireless commitment to our organization and its mission.

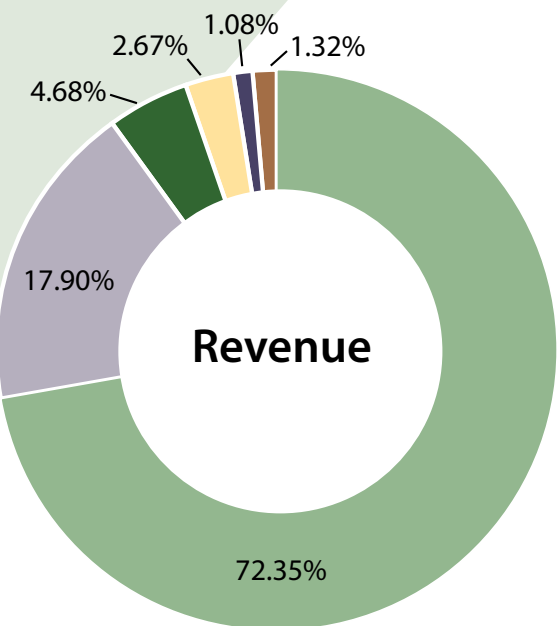
Michael Hoche, Board President
Ilm Kassam, Executive Director

Thank you to our 2022-23 Board of Directors

- Michael Hoche , President
- Dale Buote, Vice-President/Treasurer
- Rob O’Dea, Secretary
- Graeme Boyd, Member at Large
- Jody Jollimore, Member at Large
- Kristy Kerr, Member at Large
- Barbe Pickering, Member at Large

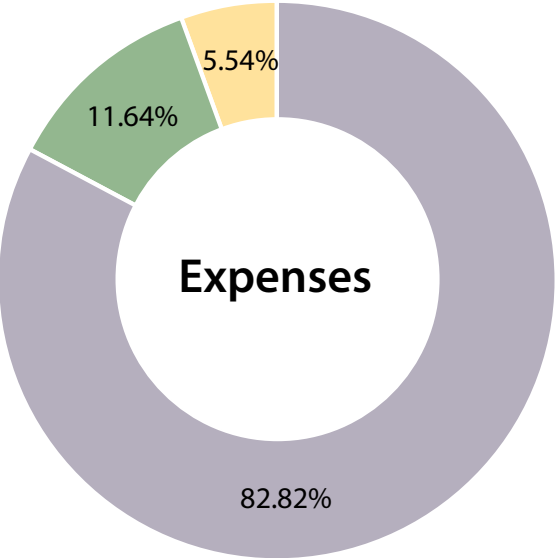


Financial Snapshot 2022-2023



Revenue: \$4,359,000

- BC Housing
- Tenant Rent
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Grants:
 - ViiV Healthcare
 - BC Gaming
 - New Horizons for Seniors Program
 - Greater Vancouver Food Bank
 - MAZON Canada
 - 100 Gay Men For a Cause YVR
- Other / Interest
- Donations:
 - Estate of Daphne McLaren
 - Public Donations



Expenses: \$4,139,000*

- Housing Operations
- Society Operations
- Restructuring Costs

*Includes \$102,000 reserve fund expense



2634
community kitchen meals

583
holiday meals

493
point and go grocery

OUR IMPACT

Between April 1 2022 and March 31, 2023
McLaren Housing Society provided or assisted with:

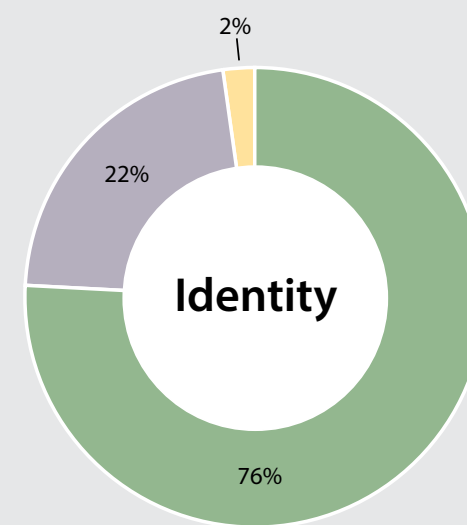
Harm Reduction

460
smoking kits

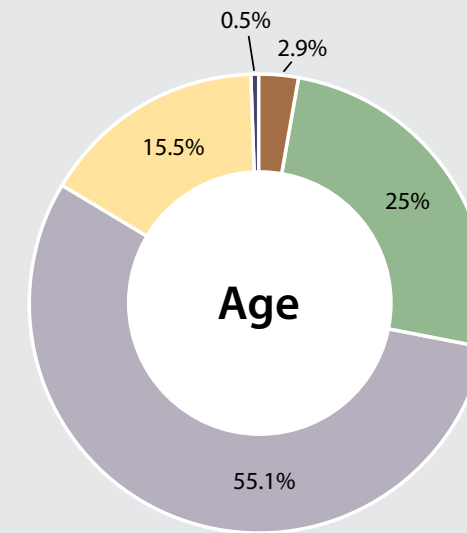
19,210
syringes

3842
injection kits

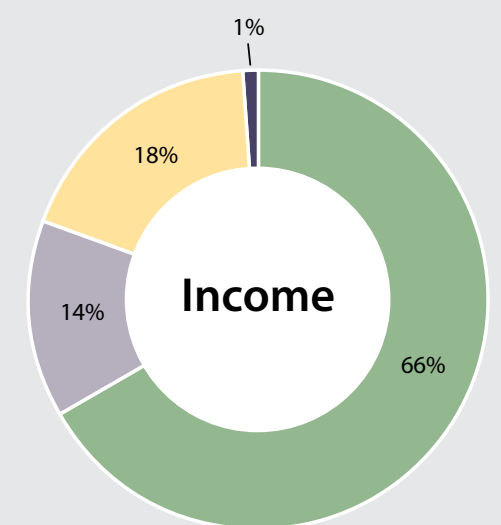
228
naloxone kits



- Male
- Female
- Transgender



- 25yrs - 34yrs
- 35yrs - 49yrs
- 50yrs - 64yrs
- 65yrs - 79yrs
- 80+yrs



- PWD*
 - PWD* / CPP-D*
 - CPP / OAS / GIS
 - Employed
- *PWD = Disability Assistance
*CPP-D = CPP Disability



310
people housed



Staff Spotlight: Tracey Pletz

My name is Tracey, and I moved to White Rock, BC, in Oct 2013 from Grande Prairie, AB. I started my first job in BC at McLaren Housing Society in May 2014.

I am one of two Resident Support Workers and work at McLaren's supportive housing building. I have worked for McLaren Housing Society for over nine years.

I was born and raised in Winnipeg, MB. I have three brothers. I came from a loving home and a very sports-oriented family. I played volleyball, basketball, hockey and soccer. In 1986 I played soccer for the first Women's National Soccer Team in Blaine, Minnesota. It was an incredible experience to be involved with such talented athletes of such a high calibre for women's soccer.

I am the proud mother of two amazing children and have two adorable grandchildren who bring me so much joy.

My life was not always easy, and I faced many challenging events throughout my childhood, but I wouldn't change anything as it shaped who I am today. It also pushed me towards a lifelong passion for working with people with empathy and respect.

I worked as an Activity Director for eight years when I realized I needed to change my career and applied to the Winnipeg Police Department. I began the rigorous application process at the age of 38 and became a constable for WPS at the age of 39. I soon realized that the people I was most passionate about working with were



our most vulnerable population. I worked on the force for one year and left to work on the frontline working with people with mental health and addiction issues, people experiencing homelessness and the less fortunate. This led me to a career I'm genuinely passionate about, and I take great pride in doing the best job possible.

I chose to apply at McLaren Housing Society as I had previously worked for an HIV organization in Grande Prairie, so when I came across the job posting, I decided to apply; well, nine years later, here I am.

The supportive housing model grabbed my attention, and when I was offered the position, I dove in. Being hired as a Resident Support Worker for our supportive housing building has been very fulfilling. The program was new when I started, and I was excited about

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Staff Spotlight

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helping develop it through the early years. I work with a fantastic team that is passionate about providing safe and affordable housing. McLaren Housing Society has been like family to me, and I am proud to say I am one of the team.

Some of my favourite interests outside of

work is being by the water. Sitting on the shore listening to the waves or floating in my kayak, it's so tranquil, watching the sea life. I also have an adorable dog, Jaxon, he comes to work with me every day, and his favourite thing is playing frisbee. However, my greatest joy is spending time with family and friends. Words cannot express the enjoyment this brings me.

Resident Spotlight: Ken W.

I moved to Vancouver from Ontario in 1994. I was living in an SRO in the Downtown Eastside when I heard about and applied to McLaren Housing. I moved into Helmcken House in 1995.

Safe, affordable housing near St. Paul's Hospital for my medical appointments changed my life. It gave me a sense of belonging where I felt like I fit in.

I was thankful to have my independence back and a full kitchen and washroom in my suite. And most importantly, McLaren buildings are pet-friendly, and I was able to get a dog.

I became involved in the community after living at Helmcken House. I started working security in the building in 1996. I've always been happy to help with any jobs that need to be done around the building. I've retired many times but still help out to this day.



As I entered my senior years, I was fortunate to know that the staff at McLaren and my neighbours cared about me. Knowing I can afford what I need monthly and not struggle to pay rent is a comfort.

Snapshot of Events



Easter



National Indigenous Peoples Day



Halloween



Christmas



Thank you to our funders:



Thank you to our donors:



Special Thank You



We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Daphne McLaren, who sadly passed away last year. Her generous contribution to McLaren

Housing Society has profoundly impacted our organization and the individuals we serve. It is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge her enduring support.

Furthermore, we are honoured to recognize that McLaren Housing Society was established in loving memory of

Daphne's son, Ted McLaren. The legacy of Ted's spirit and his family's dedication inspires and guides our work in providing safe and supportive housing for those in need and living with HIV.

Daphne McLaren's generosity and commitment to our cause will forever be remembered and cherished. Her donation will significantly advance our mission and make a positive difference in the lives of individuals facing housing challenges.

We extend our deepest condolences to the McLaren family during this difficult time. May Daphne's legacy serve as a beacon of hope and compassion, and may her spirit of generosity continue to inspire others to support our vital mission.

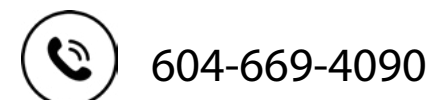
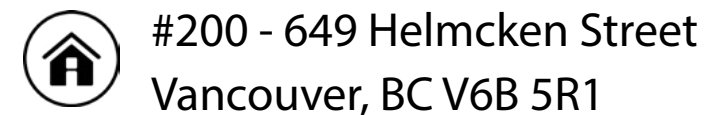
With sincere appreciation,
McLaren Housing Society

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McLaren Housing
Society of British Columbia